DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

VOL. VIII NO. 4 February 13th 1959 Price: 15 Pf, 5c., 3d.

"Recognise" Say M.P.s

Labour Motion on Germany: Trade Pact with Democratic Germany

Forty-eight Labour M. P.s have signed a motion calling for the recognition of the German Democratic Republic, and for the establishment of a German Federal Council which could sign a peace treaty.

This important step was taken at the beginning of February, just as US Secretary of State Foster Dulles was visiting Western Europe in an attempt to coordinate western policy on the German question. A few days earlier the first trade agreement with the German Democratic Republic had been concluded by the Federation of British Industries.

The recognition motion, which was initiated by Sydney Silverman, Labour M. P. for Nelson and Colne, pointed out that present international tension could not be eased without solving the German question and the conclusion of a peace treaty which would safeguard Germany's neighbours against a revival of German militarism. The motion called for the British Government to grant de facto recognition to the German Democratic Republic, and to support negotiations between the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic on the formation of a Federal Council.

The initiative taken by the Labour M. P.s was warmly welcomed in the German Democratic Republic. "This motion is just one more indication of the growing awareness in Britain and in other countries that no solution of the German question is conceivable without the cooperation of the German Democratic Republic" stated an official spokesman in Berlin.

On January 25th it was announced in London that the Federation of British Industries and the Chamber of Foreign Trade of the German Democratic Republic had signed an agreement covering trade exchanges between the two countries valued at £7,000,000.

Britain will supply Democratic Germany with textiles, plastics, chemicals, steel, TV equipment and machines, and will import in exchange fertilisers, carpets, furniture, scientific instruments and other manufactured articles.

The London "Times" featured the trade agreement as its main

Aussies Have a Word For It

LIAR!

Sunday Mirror

KRUPP TRICKS US AGAIN

LONDON, Sat. (SMWC)—Alfried Krupp, feted all over Australia last year, is a liar and a ravager.

ALFRIED KRUPP

Queen who

The Sydney "Sunday Mirror" found fitting words for the case of Herr Alfried Krupp. For more news of the Krupp Case, see p. 31 inside

(cont. from front page)

"Recognise"

news item on January 26th, commenting: "This (agreement), coming so soon after the statement by Mr Dulles that free elections might not be the only way to German reunification, will certainly be suspected by some Germans as implying some readiness on the British part for an accommodation which takes into account the existing situation in east Germany."

The "Times" City Editor commented on the same date: "Trade between the United Kingdom and east Germany has been running — with some disturbances — at an annual rate of about £2m. in each direction. The new arrangement visualises a rate of about £7m. in each direction. It is not an undertaking to trade on this scale, nor a barter deal, but represents what each country expects to do . . . The east Germans are unfamiliar with what Britain has to supply, and are expected to establish an office in London, which the Federation of British Industries will facilitate."

GUINEA LEADERS IN BERLIN

An official from the new West African republic of Guinea arrived in East Berlin on February 4th for talks on trade and cultural relations with the German Democratic Republic. The delegation was headed by Louis Beavogui, Minister of Trade, and Fodeba Keita, Minister of the Interior.

On November 17th 1958 the German Democratic Republic signed a trade and cultural agreement with the Republic of Guinea. It was the first state in the world to conclude an agreement with Guinea, which had declared its independence from France on October 2nd 1958.

Sugar, Marg Prices Slashed

The Government cut all sugar and margarine prices in Democratic Germany on February 2nd in a measure reflecting rising productivity and sinking costs in these industries. Sugar went down from 90 pfennigs to 75 pfennigs per pound, while the margarine reductions varied according to quality. The best grade dropped from 2.50 marks to 2 marks per pound.

The reductions in sugar and margarine prices also make it possible to reduce pastry prices several pfennigs, depending on how much of the two ingredients are used in making them.

Other price cuts in Democratic Germany during the last few months included rice, which was cut almost to half price in January, and shoes, leather goods, soap, eggs and lard, which were reduced in early October (see GERMAN REPORT of October 10th 1958). The goal of this series of price reductions is to surpass the West German per capita consumption of all important products by 1961.

Mountain Experts Quit Alps

Two prominent West German scientists were amongst the West-East emigrants now arriving in Democratic Germany at a rate of almost 1500 weekly.

They were Dr Karl von Kraus, specialist in internal medicine and chairman of the German Himalaya Society, and Dr Wolfgang Pillewizer, prominent cartographer and glacial expert, who led the West German-Austrian expedition to the Himalayas in 1954.

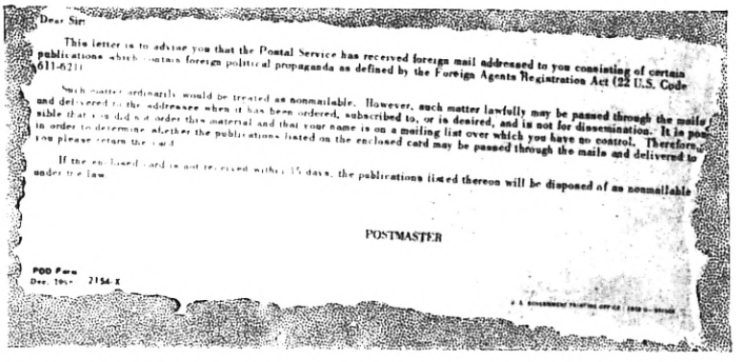
Both left their homes in Munich (Bavaria) and went to Dresden, where Dr von Kraus is now head doctor at a clinic. Dr Pillewizer is helping to found the first German Institute of Cartography at the Dresden Technical College. He will head the institute after its establishment.

More Pay For Teachers

Teachers in the German Democratic Republic should receive pay raises, the Socialist Unity Party's Central Committee recommended on January 25th. The reasons given were the important and often strenuous work done by them in the past and the future tasks connected with expanding the school system to ten years of compulsory education.

Other recommendations were for improvements in the teachers' pension plan and special benefits to those teaching in country schools.

"There's a Man (from U. S. Post Office) Goin' Round Taking Names"



Dear Sir:

This letter is to advise you that the Postal Service has received foreign mail addressed to you consisting of certain publications which contain foreign political propaganda as defined by the Foreign Agents Registration Act (22 U.S. Code 611-621).

Such matter ordinarily would be treated as nonmailable. However, such matter lawfully may be passed through the mails and delivered to the addressee when it has been ordered, subscribed to, or is desired, and is not for dissemination. It is possible that you decided to order this material and that your name is on a mailing list over which you have no control. Therefore, in order to determine whether the publications listed on the enclosed card may be passed through the mails and delivered to you please return the card.

If the enclosed card is not received within 15 days, the publications listed thereon will be disposed of as nonmailable under the law.

POSTMASTER

POD Form
Dec. 1964 2156-X

Readers of GERMAN REPORT in the United States have recently received from the US Post Office printed slips, one of which is reproduced above.

* * *

The US Bill of Rights, which came into force on December 15th 1791 stated: "Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech or of the press . . ."

* * *

Note to US Subscribers

We are glad to note that many of you have gone right ahead and sent in the postcard to the US Postmaster. You will continue hearing the other side of the German question. However, we don't want to embarrass you: if you are worried about that notification, we will gladly drop you from our mailing list.

KRUPP CASE

From Big Bertha To Artful Alfried

Krupp the cannon-king is back in the news. Most of the Krupp property was returned to Alfried Krupp, convicted war criminal, some years ago. Now the British, French and American Governments are preparing to abandon the last small shred of control over the enormous Krupp property.

On these pages GERMAN REPORT presents a documentation on the House of Krupp, and the way in which it has been rehabilitated.

Krupp's Contribution To History

To the French it was Krupp guns that had ravaged France three times in a century ... **To the Americans,** it had been Tiger tanks built by Krupp that led the slaughter at Kasserine Pass and spearheaded the Ardennes offensive. Particularly memorable **to the Russians** were the giant 32-inch mortars which decided the siege of Sevastopol ... **To the British** Krupp was noted, among other things, for having built the first U-boats used in 1914. In World War II most of the heavy guns which shelled the south coast were of Krupp manufacture ...

(Alistair Horne, "Back into Power", London 1955, p. 109)

•

Secret Arms Research

By the time Hitler came to power in 1933, the firm had built itself up again by producing a steady flow of peacetime goods. It had also violated the Versailles Treaty by secretly carrying on armaments research, producing small quantities of tanks, guns, even submarines. Gustav von Bohlen early became a backer of Adolf Hitler, soon began producing a flood of arms at Hitler's behest, joined the Nazi Party in 1939. During World War II Krupp once more became Germany's chief source of armament ...

("Time", New York, August 19th 1957)

•

"Allies Fooled"

I wanted to and had to maintain Krupp as a producer of armaments for the future despite all opposition, even if in a camouflaged way. Only in the smallest, most intimate circles could I speak of the real reasons which caused me to change the plants over to certain lines of production ... Even the spies of the Allies were fooled ... After Hitler came to power I had the satisfaction of reporting to the Fuehrer that Krupp was ready to begin rearming the German people ...

(Gustav Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach, March 1st 1940)

THE KRUPP DYNASTY

1. **Friedrich Krupp started making steel during Napoleon's blockade of Europe (7 employees)**
2. **Alfred Krupp (son); ruled 1826–1887; called 'Alfred the Great' and the 'Cannon King'. 12,674 employees at death. Kaiser sent deputy with condolences to funeral**
3. **Friedrich Alfred Krupp (son); ruled 1887–1902; empl. reached 43,000**
4. **Bertha Krupp (only child); "Big Bertha"; married 1902 to**
5. **Gustav von Bohlen und Halbach; Kaiser Wilhelm II attended wedding, gave him and heirs right to use name Krupp. Ruled 1902–1943; built largest industrial firm in continental Europe; peak employment World War I – 180,000, World War II, almost 250,000. Joined Nazi Party 1939. Helped build up and arm Hitler.**
6. **Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach (son); rules since 1943 – joined Nazi Party 1938; in prison for war crimes 1945–1951. Now employs about 120,000.**

Support for Hitler

Letter to President Hindenburg.

November, 1932

Honoured Reich-President!

... Like your Excellency, we affirm the necessity of a government independent of the parliamentary party system ... also the National Socialist German Workers' Party is completely for this position ... We believe this to be extremely gratifying ... Giving the responsible leadership of a presidential cabinet to the 'Fuehrer' of the largest national group would remove the dross and mistakes which are connected with every mass movement and would inspire millions now on the sidelines with great constructive strength ...

Signed: Schacht, Schröder, Thyssen, Haniel, **KRUPP**, Siemens, etc.

•

"Hitler Fund"

It has been proposed to encourage a collection of money among the widest circles of German industry for the use of the Fuehrer of the NSDAP, with the name 'Hitler Fund' ... I have assumed the chairmanship of the fund's administration ...

(Gustav Krupp von Bohlen in a letter to Hjalmar Schacht, May 30th 1933)

"Blood & Earth"

Above the life of a nation and its ever-changing manifestations stands the Law which, born from the race and the soul of a people, symbolises the eternal link between the nation and its own particular values. Basing itself on these values of blood and earth, of honour and freedom, National Socialism constructs its philosophy ...

Signed: Dr Josef Goebbels, Pres., Reich Chamber of Culture, Reich Minister for People's Enlightenment and Propaganda

Dr Robert Ley, Fuehrer of the German Workers' Front

Dr Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach, Fuehrer of the Reich German Industrial Class Organisation (and other signers).

Alfried the Nazi

In 1936 he (Alfried Krupp) entered the firm as a deputy director and in 1938, according to Nürnberg trial records, joined the Nazi Party. That same year he entered Krupp's artillery-construction division, where he directed the design, sale and development of weapons until 1943, flying throughout Europe to inspect plants in Nazi-occupied territory.

("Time" August 19th 1957)

•

Slave Labour

Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach was in an exceptionally privileged position in regard to concentration camp labour. In 1943, when he acquired sole control of the historic firm, Friedrich Krupp A.G., he was already constructing fuse factories in Auschwitz and Wustergiersdorf camps. In July of that year he was actually allowed to collect Jews from Auschwitz for the Berthawerk in Essen, a notable exception to the decree of November 26th 1942, which confined all Jewish labour to Auschwitz and Lublin. The Hungarian Jewesses were allotted to the Elmag plant in Essen, the Suedwerke in Nuremberg, and a number of Krupp factories.

(Gerald Reitlinger, "The Final Solution", London 1953, p. 426)

•

Family Enterprise

We are ready to make every single guarantee possible in order that the (Krupp) factories are continued as a family enterprise ...

(Adolf Hitler, 1943)

Shorn Slaves

The camp in Humboldt Street was for Italian military internees. After the camp was destroyed by bombing attacks, the Italians were removed and 600 Jewish women from Buchenwald Concentration Camp were brought there in their place to work in the Krupp factories. When I first visited this camp I found people with festering open wounds and other sicknesses. I was the first doctor they had seen for 14 days. There was no camp doctor. There were also neither medicines nor bandages. The women had no shoes and walked around barefoot. Their only clothing was a sack, in which holes for arms and head were cut. Their hair had been cut off. The camp was surrounded by barbed wire and was guarded thoroughly by SS-men. The food in the camp was extremely scanty and miserable. The buildings in which they lived were the ruins of barracks and offered no protection at all against rain or bad weather ... One camp doctor refused to reenter the camp, after he had been severely bitten by fleas ... After I had left the camp, I had large boils on my arms and my whole body ... Despite my report, I found no improvement in the sanitary conditions when I visited the camp a second time ...

(Dr Wilhelm Jaeger; Document D-288, US-202; Nuremberg Trial; December 12th 1945)

•

Every Crime

There was no crime the Nazi state could commit whether it was war, plunder or slavery in which Krupp did not participate.

(US Brigadier General Telford Taylor, 1947, US Prosecutor at Nuremberg)

Encouraging War

Krupp von Bohlen ... made repeated speeches in which he approved and encouraged Hitler's programme of aggression ... On April 6th and 7th 1938 he approved the swallowing up of Austria; on October 13th he approved the Nazi occupation of the Sudetenland; on September 4th 1939 he approved the march into Poland; on May 6th 1941 he celebrated the success of Nazi weapons in the west. Alfried Krupp also made speeches which were in general the same ... The Krupps were the main factor in the preparations for war ... The United States has always been of the opinion that the big industrialists of Germany were exactly as guilty of the crimes listed in this indictment as were the politicians, diplomats and soldiers ... Therefore, the USA proposes, in agreement with the State Department, to try Alfried Krupp, the son of Krupp von Bohlen ...

(Robert H. Jackson, Chief Prosecutor for the USA, Supreme Court Judge, 1941—1954, "US Reply to Krupp's plea", November 12th 1945)

•

Bevin's Pledge

It is the intention of the British Government that Germany's heavy industry shall be nationalised!

(Ernest Bevin, October 1946)

6-Year-Old Slaves

In the judgement on July 31st 1948, the Court found that Krupp had employed French, Belgian, Polish, Yugoslav and Russian prisoners of war in defiance of international conventions; that Russian prisoners in particular were severely discriminated against, their standards of accommodation being entirely inadequate and their rations being scarcely sufficient to sustain sustenance; and that even 6-year old children and men over 80 were forced to work on Krupp projects ... between 1940 and 1945 the 81 Krupp plants employed between them a total of 69,898 foreign civilian workers, 23,076 prisoners of war and 4,978 concentration camp inmates.

Krupp was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment and the confiscation of all his properties, his directors received terms of 2 to 12 years.

(Keesing's Contemporary Archives, Bristol, p. 9477)

•

April 7th 1949: General Clay, US Military Governor in Germany, confirmed the sentences, but rejected the confiscation of all properties in name of the Allied Control Council, amending the judgement to read instead that Krupp properties should be seized by the Zone Commander in which they lie. About 90% of the steel works and mines are in the British Zone, 3 minor steel and coal plants are in the Soviet Zone.

•

Robertson's Promise

I can repeat the promise which has been given to you in the past that the British Government will never allow German industry to return to its former owners.

(General Sir Brian Robertson, British Military Governor in speech to Parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia, April 7th 1948)

McCloy's Action

Mr McCloy, US High Commissioner in Germany and General Thomas T. Handy, Commander in Chief of the American Forces in Europe, announced **January 31st 1951** that after a review of 101 sentences on German war criminals detained in the US Zone, 33 sentences would be reduced, etc. ... Released: Alfried Krupp ... whose property was also restored to him on the grounds that the confiscation order had been the only such measure in all the war crimes trials, was "not a usual element of our (American) judicial system", and was "generally repugnant to American concepts of justice."

Mr McCloy stated in his announcement that he had freed all the nine former executives of the Krupp works because their guilt had been "no greater than that of men concerned in other industrial trials ..."

("Keesing's Contemporary Archives", Bristol, p. 11344-5)

•

Annullment

... the confiscation of Krupp's property was annulled, subject to the requirements of the Allied law on the reorganisation of the Ruhr coal and steel industry. It was not till another eighteen months had passed that the Allied 'Deconcentration' experts published the nature of these requirements.

(Gerald Reitlinger, "The Final Solution", London 1953, p. 426)

•

Krupp Backs Out

The Allied Plan for Krupps ... divided the Krupp property into four parts. Groups I and II comprised the coal and steel holdings that Alfried Krupp was to sell ... The ordinary shares were to be handed over to German 'Disposition Trustees' appointed by the Allies, who were to sell them over a period of five years. Up to the end of the five years, the Disposition Trustees could only sell at prices acceptable to Alfried Krupp. If then any shares remained unsold, with Allied concurrence the period could be extended, during which time Krupp would have the right to protest against the selling prices ... in late February 1953, a draft agreement was flown out to Alfried Krupp in Davos by his American lawyers ... Then the astonishing occurred — Herr Krupp refused to sign the agreement! ... Eventually the Allies agreed upon a compromise, and, upon Herr Krupp's request, undertook to amend the text of the agreement ... At last, on 4th March, the agreement was signed in the Allied High Commission at Mehlem ...

The financial details concerning the sales of the coal and steel holdings remained essentially unchanged from those announced the previous August, as did the list of assets that Krupp was allowed to keep (steel fabrication works, locomotive and heavy truck plants, machine-tool factory, building firms, printing shops, shipyards ,the important Widia tungsten-carbide works, etc. — ed.). Herr Krupp undertook not to buy himself back into, or to attempt to regain control, directly or indirectly in the 'steel or iron producing industries **in Germany** or in the coal-mining industry **in Germany**'.

(Alistair Horne, "Back into Power", London 1955, p. 113-120)

•

Attlee's Pledge

There is no question of Krupp being allowed to resume either ownership or control of the former Krupp industrial empire.

(Lord Attlee, 1951)

Alfried Krupp's big gamble is one that he hopes will win him reunification of his divided empire. Though the five-year term for selling his separated properties is up next March (January 31st 1959 is correct date, ed., DGR), he has shown little hurry to sell, has so far disposed of only two coal mines. If sales on 'reasonable terms' cannot be made in time (and no German firm would interfere in Krupp's personal problem by bidding on the properties), regulations permit one-year extensions. Alfried Krupp would not take advantage of this temporary escape clause; instead, he is hoping that the Allies will annul the sales agreement and leave Krupp with all its empire ... Last February Chancellor Adenauer finally wrote to the British, French and Americans asking for its reconsideration ...

("Time", August 19th 1957)

•

Adenauer's Pledge

Way back in 1949 Dr Adenauer had sent a letter to the Allied Governments giving a pledge that the agreement to break up Krupps would be honoured ...

("Tribune" – London, January 23rd 1959)

Allies Renege

But there is one decision that Herr Krupp seems to have reserved for himself. It concerns the Allies' post-war order that he sell his steel and coal holdings. Herr Krupp has no intention of complying with the order, which he now says was signed under duress. There is no longer any serious intention among the Allies to make him comply. The deadline for selling was set five years ago at Jan. 31st 1959, but it will probably be extended for one year.

("New York Times" January 19th 1959)

•

As far as can be learned, the extension will be granted not out of any hope or remaining desire for compliance but, Allied diplomats here agree, mainly because the British Government does not want to face the political storm that cancellation of the order would probably arouse in Britain. The only other alternative to extension or cancellation is to enforce compliance. Even if the Allies wanted to, legal experts are agreed that there is no way to do it short of having the West German Parliament adopt a special law. Having already requested the Allies to lift the order, Chancellor Konrad Adenauer is unlikely to seek such a step from Parliament. If he did, a spokesman for Herr Krupp said, 'I doubt very much that Parliament would pass it.'

("New York Times" January 19th 1959)

Eden's Pledge

We are seeking to ensure that Herr Krupp shall not be allowed to buy his way back into the German coal and steel industry.

(Sir Anthony Eden, 1952)

On Top Again

The Firm of Friedrich Krupp in Essen announced on January 5th that the High Authority of the European Steel and Coal Community had approved Krupp's purchase, through his holding company "Huetten- und Bergwerke Rheinhausen AG", of the "Bochumer Verein fuer Gussstahlfabrikation AG" ... (worth 92 million marks). This adds a capacity of 1,6 million tons of steel to Krupp's previous capacity of 3,8 million tons — together about 4 million tons of steel.

(AP, January 6th 1959)

•

Monopoly

Before the war 8 iron and steel concerns produced 95% of Germany's steel. The Occupation Forces divided them up into more than 40 different companies. Now 8 concerns control the steel production again. One of them, Krupp, produces about one-sixth of German production — 4 million tons yearly — and 6,500,000 tons of coal. Together with the fabrication factories, Krupp will have 120,000 employees and a yearly turnover of more than 4,000,000,000 marks, once again leading all West German industrial enterprises.

(UPI, January 10th 1959)

•

Meanwhile ...

Wartime German arms chief Alfred Krupp has been given the go-ahead by the Quebec Provincial Government to feed his vast West German industrial machine with iron ore from Labrador ...

("Daily Express" London, October 10th 1958)

•

In the past year he has visited Turkey, South America, Southeast Asia and the Middle East ... Amid the magnificent trappings of the Villa Huegel, his 200-room ancestral mansion above the valley of the Ruhr, Alfried Krupp regally receives visiting heads of state such as King Paul of Greece, Brazil's President Kubitschek, Cabinet ministers and businessmen ...

("Time", August 19th 1957)

•

Arms Not Barred

It (Allied Agreement on sale of Krupp properties, ed.) did not bar Krupp from the manufacture of arms in the future, which to the simple-minded, might once have seemed to be the point of any settlement with Krupp.

(Alistair Horne, "Back into Power", London 1955, p. 121)

•

Herr Beitz Says

Herr Beitz (Krupp's General Director, ed.) likes to say that Krupp's is engaged in 'peace production'. 'Would you make guns again?' the visitor asked. 'No, no,' he answered. 'Anyway, the next war criminals will come from the chemical and electronics industries.'

("New York Times", January 19th 1959)

•

NATO Pressure

Krupp still hopes never to make guns again, but Alfried Krupp likes to tell friends, with half-concealed amusement, of the irony of his situation. After the war, the Allies were rock-firm in their pronouncement that Krupp would never again be allowed to make munitions; now, the United States and Great Britain would like Krupp to resume making war material so that Germany can carry its share in NATO. 'Why in the world', says Berthold Beitz (General Director, ed.), 'would we want to produce guns? Look at our orders for peacetime goods. Besides, what war is going to be fought with guns anyway?' Would Krupp produce armaments if pressed to do so by Bonn or NATO? Says Alfried Krupp: 'That is difficult. I suppose that under certain conditions we would. We must not forget reality.'

("Time", August 19th 1957)

•

Remember 1945?

Nazi party members, German industrialists and the German military, realizing that victory can no longer be attained, are now developing post-war commercial projects, are endeavouring to renew and cement friendships in foreign commercial circles and are planning for renewals of prewar cartel agreements ... German technicians, cultural experts, and undercover agents have well-laid plans to infiltrate foreign countries with the object of developing economic, cultural and political ties ... The German propaganda program is to be an integral part of the overall postwar program. The immediate aim of the propaganda program will be directed at removing Allied Control measures by 'softening up' the Allies through a subtle plea for 'fair treatment' of Germans and later the program will be expanded and intensified with the object of giving rebirth to all Nazi doctrines and furthering German ambitions for world domination. Unless these plans are checked they will present a constant menace to postwar peace and security.

(U S. State Department, March 30th 1945)

THOSE NAZI JUDGES

By Frederick Ford

The judges in West Germany have been coming in for a lot of criticism recently, and very rightly so, seeing how they have been acting.

Regular readers of GERMAN REPORT will not have been surprised by the judicial scandals, which have even found their way into newspapers all over the world, for they have known for years that the entire system of German law enforcement in West Germany is not simply riddled by old nazis: it is actually run by old nazis.

The judge or public prosecutor in West Germany today who has a non-nazi record is a rarity: the judge with an anti-nazi record is almost non-existent. And the verdicts they hand down show that the nazi judges were not simply nazis during the years 1933—45 when Hitler was in power: they are still nazis today.

In past issues of GERMAN REPORT some of the scandalous verdicts handed down by these judges have been recorded: here are just a few more details:

On January 9th 1959 the Duisburg Provincial Court declined to proceed with the case against Herr Freter, retired major of the fire brigade. Herr Freter had been charged with, and confessed to, first degree arson, in that he had set fire to the Jewish synagogue in Duisburg on November 9th 1938, the infamous "crystal night", when synagogues everywhere in Germany were fired on nazi orders. The court disallowed the charge of first degree arson, since the synagogue had been taken over by the Duisburg City Council one month before it was fired. It was therefore no longer a place of worship, and setting fire to it was only second degree arson; second degree arson is no longer punishable because of the statute of limitations.

Or take the case of the Hamburger Friedrich Nieland, which was reported briefly in GERMAN REPORT dated January 16th. This gentleman had written and distributed a wild anti-Semitic pamphlet: the Hamburg prosecutors' office took proceedings against him. The case was promptly quashed by the Hamburg Upper Provincial Court on the grounds that the pamphlet "only attacks international Jewry and not the Jewish people as such". This is a staggering ruling: but it becomes completely understandable when we take a look at the judges responsible. The President of the Upper Court, a certain Dr Herr, served as judge in one of Hitler's special courts, the courts specially established to deal with people who opposed the nazi state.

The record of Dr Enno Budde, the judge of the lower court, who first stopped proceedings against the anti-Semitic author, is even more interesting. Research shows that he himself was sentenced to six weeks imprisonment for anti-Semitic agitation in Stade in 1927, six years before Hitler came to power. In 1935 he wrote in the "Althannoverschen Kalender" an essay on radicalism which stated:

"The present generation has the task of handing on the heritage of our blood ... We must thank Adolf Hitler for the recognition of this fact. At the beginning of the 19th century the emancipation of the Jews threatened Germanic blood and Germanic soil ... After 1866 a great Jewish invasion from the east began, to the great detriment of the maintenance of racial purity."

• • •

West German apologists are claiming that cases such as those outlined above are isolated instances, and that the judicial system as a whole should not be criticised, since this would "undermine the independence of the judiciary."

(On January 20th the Hamburg Judges' Association officially pro-

tested against the fact that Dr Budde had been the subject of newspaper criticism. "Personal attacks on judges should not be allowed, since this endangers the independence of judicial decision", the Judges' Association stated.)

But these cases have long since ceased to be isolated cases: and even if anti-Semites like Herr Nieland can be regarded as unpleasant but not particularly important cranks, it is impossible to brush aside so lightly the obvious prejudice in favour of nazis and neo-nazis shown by most judges. The Bonn correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian", himself a fairly consistent supporter of the Adenauer Government, was forced to make the following admission on January 10th:

"It has been pointed out in the past that there are occasions when the German law courts cannot be trusted implicitly. Three out of every four German judges first held an important office under the Nazis, and generally practised for twelve years under Nazi precepts . . ."

(It may be necessary to emphasise that the correspondent is referring to West German judges: in the German Democratic Republic the vast majority of judges are confirmed anti-fascists, and not a single judge who held important judicial office under the nazis is practising today.)

The "Holzarbeiterzeitung", organ of the West German Woodworkers Trade Union, stated on February 1st: "We must not allow ourselves to be persuaded to hush up these scandals 'for fear of damaging the name of German Democracy'. We are regarded with suspicion abroad just because we have not made a sharp break with these people who are not suitable to work as judges today in view of their complicity in Nazi misdeeds."

The West German Government has often proved in the past to be sensitive to world public opinion. In this case too it has reacted, and as a sop a new legal ruling providing for more stringent punishment of anti-Semitic activities is being prepared. But it is important to note that this new law will be applied by the same old judges, and they will find the same old excuses for evading it.

As long as many hundreds of old nazi judges occupy the benches in the West German courts there is no chance of improvement. The case histories of 600 of these men have already been published: the case histories of hundreds more are in preparation and will be published shortly.

Public opinion can force the West German authorities to take action on this crying scandal: and every reader of GERMAN REPORT should help.

Free Trial Copy

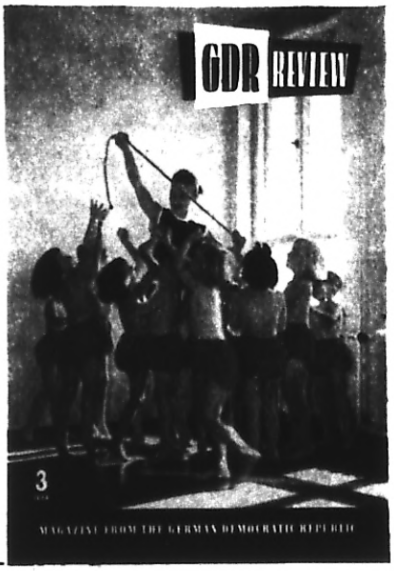
Our picture shows the cover of the March issue of "GDR Review", pocket magazine from the German Democratic Republic.

Illustrated articles in this issue will deal with the use of radio-active isotopes in the war on disease; motor-cycle racing; and social activities in a big steel-mill in Democratic Germany.

"GDR Review" is published monthly in English, French, Swedish and Spanish.

A free trial copy of the magazine, and details of how to subscribe, will be sent on application to:

GDR Review
Verlag Zeit im Bild
Bergmannstrasse 46
Dresden A 19
German Democratic Republic



MUZZLE FOR NIEMOELLER?

West German Defence Minister Franz Josef Strauss has opened proceedings for slander against Pastor Martin Niemoeller, leading West German Protestant churchman, concentration camp veteran, and opponent of atomic weapons.

On January 28th Minister Strauss lodged a formal complaint against Niemoeller on the basis of press reports of a speech delivered by the pastor in Kassel on January 25th. In his speech Niemoeller was reported to have said: "The training of soldiers for leading positions in the military command must be described as a high-school for professional criminals".

Strauss was supported in his action by the West German Cabinet, which stated that Niemoeller had "slandered the Federal Army and the old soldiers".

Niemoeller claimed that he had not spoken of "commands" but of "commandos", troops trained for special duties behind the enemy lines.

Commenting on the case, the "Frankfurter Rundschau" stated on January 31st: "It is impossible to avoid the impression that certain circles have taken the opportunity to launch a campaign aimed at the moral destruction of this awkward warner against rearmament, this preacher against the deadly sin of misusing the atom. It is interesting to note the circles which are supporting Minister Strauss in his action: the League of German Soldiers has telegraphed Strauss, promising support for any measures he may take against 'these incredible remarks about the Federal Army and the former soldiers'; the German Party has started legal proceedings 'because the time has come to put an end to this defamation of the German soldiers, which has continued since 1945.' The tone and the undertone of these statements should be carefully noted."

Strike Answers Atom Rockets

All work stopped in Dortmund, West Germany, for ten minutes on February 4th in a mass protest against the stationing of a British atom-rocket unit in the city. Work ceased in all factories, all buses and trams came to a stop, and all city offices closed.

The general protest strike was a further move in the opposition in Dortmund to the stationing there of the British 47th Rocket regiment, equipped with Corporal rockets with nuclear warheads. The protest started on January 13th, when the city council unanimously voted against the stationing of rockets in the city.

On February 3rd the town council of Pforzheim unanimously protested against the stationing of US nuclear rockets in the vicinity of the town.

Black Sea Vacation

Bulgarian resorts on the Black Sea and in the mountains are rapidly becoming favourite holiday spots for tourists from the German Democratic Republic. 15,000 visitors from the Democratic Republic are expected there in 1959, and 1960 the figure is scheduled to rise to 50,000.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Visitors to Berlin often remark to me that it must be very queer living in a split city with two different administrations, two currencies, two social systems and all the rest of it.

I must admit that living here, one tends to get used to it, and to forget how odd it all is. To make the following story understandable I must explain that a city with two different currencies and two different price levels is a paradise for smugglers: you buy something which happens to be cheap in East Berlin, like bread or cameras, and smuggle it to West Berlin, where you sell it at a profit; then you buy chocolate or nylons in West Berlin, where these goods are cheaper, and smuggle them back to East Berlin. After repeating this operation long enough, you land up either as a millionaire or in prison.

Smuggling Checks

To check smuggling, customs officials operate on both sides of the sector border, which anyone can cross without any trouble. Now I often drive my car through the Brandenburg Gate with my two-and-a-half year-old daughter Miriam beside me. Customs officials still entrance her at her age, and when the uniformed young men put their heads in the car window to see if I am smuggling anything today, she loves to pipe up (in German of course): "Nothing to declare".

A day or two ago, a stretch of open road nowhere near the sector border tempted me to drive faster than the thirty miles an hour which is the legal speed limit, and I was flagged down by a traffic cop. When he popped his head in the window, my daughter promptly piped up: "Nothing to declare." But despite her charm, I had to pay a five mark fine on the spot.

While I am on the subject of smugglers, let me unburden myself of an anecdote about one of them. The customs officials at the sector border stopped a man riding a bicycle and carrying a heavy rucksack. They looked in the rucksack, and found it full of sand. There was nothing in the regulations about not smuggling sand, so they let him go.

Every day at the same time the same man on a bicycle came puffing up to the border. Every day they looked in his rucksack. Every day he had a load of sand. The customs men got more and more suspicious: they probed the sand with rods; they took samples and made chemical analyses; but it was real common or garden sand which he was carrying, sand which you can dig up in any backyard in Berlin, either East or West.

Finally the strain of uncertainty grew too great, and they promised the man that no action would be taken against him if he would only tell them what he was smuggling, and put their minds at rest. "Bicycles", said he.

Yiddish Concert

The nazi extermination campaign left so few Jews alive in Germany that Berlin might not be expected to be a good place to stage a concert of Yiddish songs and sketches. So when I went to the small "Theatre on the Third Floor" in East Berlin on January 24th to just such a concert, I rather expected that the theatre would not be very full.

I was surprised and pleased to find the theatre crammed, and a long queue waiting at the box office. The audience, with a refreshingly large proportion of young people, was immensely moved by the programme, which was presented by a very talented young performer, Cipé Lincovsky, from the "Yidishes Folks Teater" in Buenos Aires. For many of the younger people present the wide range and special mocking humor of the Yiddish songs and anecdotes which she presented came as a revelation.

And they listened too with bated breath when Miss Lincovsky recited the story of "Klezmers Einikel" by I. Taif, the story of a Jewish violinist whose whole family is murdered in the ghetto by the Germans, and who swears never to touch his instrument again until the nazis are defeated. He fights as a soldier in the ranks of the Red Army, sees Berlin in flames and the Red Flag flying over the Brandenburg Gate. Then he takes up his violin again.

Miss Lincovsky received applause such as I have rarely heard in the theatre, and the applause was not only appreciation for her art, but also a pledge that anti-Semitism had been banished once and for all in the German Democratic Republic.

And I expect that Cipé Lincovsky recalled that applause the very next evening, for on January 25th, when she appeared at a theatre in West Berlin and sang Yiddish songs, the performance was interrupted by a gang of young West Berliners, who threw stink-bombs, yelled anti-Semitic remarks, and chanted "Deutschland Ueber Alles". West Berlin police noted a few names and addresses, but took no further action. The police declared later that they had evidence that the interruptions, carried out by teen-agers, had been organised by a member of the neo-nazi "German Reich Party". To date no action has been taken against this man.

"Political" Stamps

What is "political"? This old and vexed problem has been presented again in connection with the big West German Postage Stamp Exhibition which will be held in Hamburg at the end of May this year. 800 outstanding collections will be shown, including sections of the collection of Queen Elizabeth. (I have often wondered whether she sits quietly at home in the evening licking those little gummed hinges which philatelists use). But one very interesting collection has been turned down by the West German organisers because it was "too political". It was an American collection of covers of letters sent from German concentration camps.

American writer Sinclair Lewis coined the phrase: "It Can't Happen Here". Many West Germans have brought the phrase up to date: "It Didn't Happen Here".

Cloak and Dagger

I am indebted for the following crack to the American funny-man Bob Hope. On a recent visit to West Berlin Bob Hope was asked how he liked his stay. "Fine" he said, "except for the difficulty in getting a room in the Hilton Hotel. I found that the bottom five floors are permanently reserved for international spies".

Mr Hope spoke truer than he knew. According to the latest count more than 80 different cloak and dagger organisations use West Berlin as their base for operations against the German Democratic Republic and other socialist countries. Which is yet another reason why it might be a very good idea to turn West Berlin into a Free City, as the Soviet Union proposed nearly three months ago.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet. Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8, Telephone 22 29 68. Printed in Germany by (204). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 694 beim Presseamt des Ministerpräsidenten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.